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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1908.

NEW MILITIA LAW.

The "act of Congress to promote the efficiency of the militia and for other purposes," is interesting reading matter, especially for the organized militia of the several States. It places great power in the hands of the President, and puts the militia affairs in a position to be called out at the first touch of war, and to be marched into any other State of the Union, or for all that it says to the contrary, across the border into Canada or Mexico. But on the other hand, it makes far better provision for their maintenance, equipment and encampment than has been made heretofore. The sum of \$2,000,000 is appropriated to carry out the provisions of the new law.

The act divides the militia into two classes—the organized militia, to be known as "the National Guard," or by such other designation as may be given them by the laws of their respective States, and the remainder to be known as "the Reserve Militia."

The organized and uniformed active militia who have heretofore participated, or shall hereafter participate in the apportionment of the annual appropriations provided by Congress will constitute the organized militia. The President of the United States may fix the minimum number of enlisted men in each company.

Whenever the United States "is invaded, or in danger of invasion from any foreign nation, or of rebellion, or against the authority of the United States, or whenever the President is unable with the forces at his command to execute the laws of the Union in any part of the State," he is authorized to call forth, for a period not exceeding nine months,

"such number of the militia of the State, or of the States and Territories, or of the District of Columbia, as he may deem necessary to repel such invasion, suppress such rebellion, or to enable him to execute such laws, and to issue his orders, for that purpose to such officers of the militia as he may think proper."

Observe, the President need not call upon the Governors at all. As we understand it, he may "issue his orders to such officers of the militia as he may think proper."

When called into service under this law the organized militia will be subject to the same rules and Articles of War as the regular troops of the United States, and will draw the like pay.

The Governor of each State is authorized to make regulations for such number of the United States standard service arms, accoutrements and equipments as are required for the organized militia in his State. The United States will not charge for these, nor for any which has been issued since December 1, 1901; nor charge any expense connected therewith against the allotment to said State out of the annual appropriation provided by section 1601 of the revised statutes as amended. Upon receipt of the new arms, etc., the old arms, etc., must be turned in.

When the organized militia of a State is sufficiently armed and equipped for active duty in the field the United States will pay the State so much of its allotment out of the annual appropriation under section 1601, R. S., as may be necessary for the payment, subsistence and transportation of such portion of the militia as shall engage in actual field or camp service for instruction, and the officers and enlisted men of such militia will be entitled to pay, allowances, etc.

The Secretary of War is authorized to provide for the participation of any part of the organized militia in military duties at or near any military post or camp of the United States. Upon the recommendation of the Governor and when authorized by the President they may have the full benefits of any United States military school or college, upon the same terms as regular officers.

Practice marches, or attendance in camp of instruction, for five consecutive days each year is required of all troops not excused by Governor. The benefit of the pension laws will be extended to any officer, non-commissioned officer or private, who may be disabled by reason of wounds or disabilities incurred in the service of the United States.

Boards of Examiners will be appointed to examine persons specially qualified to hold commissions in forces, which may hereafter be created by Congress, other than forces composed of organized militia.

Upon the conclusion of such examination the board will certify to the War Department its judgment as to the fitness of the applicant, stating the office, if any, which it deems him qualified to fill, and, upon approval by the President, the names of the persons certified to be qualified shall be inscribed upon a register to be kept in the War Department. These qualified persons may either receive a cadetship at West Point or a commission in any volunteer force hereafter raised.

The bill was framed by the National Association of National Guardsmen at a meeting at which, we believe, Virginia was not represented, because our military had no money to pay the expenses of delegates. We have been told, however, that generally speaking the military gave the proposition their approval.

In Virginia our organized and uniformed militia are not called "National

Guard," but "Virginia Volunteers" and the act of Congress permits that name to be continued.

A WONDERFUL MAN.

Yesterday the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world solemnly but joyously celebrated the completion of the twenty-fifth year of the pontificate of Leo XIII.

It is almost an incredible coincidence that of the three Popes who alone in nearly 1000 years have held that exalted office for twenty-five years, the first should, according to tradition, have been the first Bishop of Rome, and the last two should come immediately together at the end of the nineteenth century.

We know that it is alleged that he never was at Rome at all, but we are not concerned about this. It is enough that the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church is that St. Peter was Bishop in Rome twenty-five years, and it is also a historical fact that no other Pope ever held that office from that day to this who continued in office as long as St. Peter is said to have done until Pope Pius IX., who died in 1878. His successor was Cardinal Pecci, Pope Leo XIII., a man then sixty-eight years of age and in delicate health. No one dreamed that he would live as long as he has, but he has outlasted all of his distinguished contemporaries.

Gladstone, "the Grand Old Man," was born in 1809, the same year with the Pope, and while he did not exceed Leo XIII. in literary accomplishments, his pale beside him in the great age which the latter has reached and in the marvelous power which the Pope has exercised for conservation and sound doctrine on great modern questions.

Not Catholics alone have felt their admiration for the intellectual achievements of the Pope. The power of his great office has been uniformly exercised in behalf of the soundest and self-interests which relate to property and government. In this he has given new emphasis to the conservative power of the Catholic Church in times of tumult and revolution. It is certain that no anarchist or revolutionary socialist is found in the ranks of faithful Catholics, though the Pope himself has, in respect to the Republicans of France and the United States, placed himself affirmatively on the side of popular government. His conflict with the Italian government and his voluntary seclusion in the Vatican as a self-restrained prisoner is apart from our present consideration.

The Pope's temporal kingdom is a mere figment compared with the spiritual influence which he exercises through the Catholic Church upon the world, and we have always thought that his dignity and his beneficent influence were not increased by demanding a recognition as a temporal sovereign, when our Saviour himself declared "My Kingdom is not of this world." However that may be, we write this from the view of a non-Catholic, and as a tribute from such an one to a Pope, who will stand in history as one of the most distinguished that ever occupied the Papal throne.

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DEFEAT OF THE ALDRICH BILL.

As an independent proposition we should never have favored the Aldrich bill, for it presupposes a false currency system and a surplus. We do not believe in the present currency system, nor do we believe in the Republican system of taxation which takes more money from the pockets of the people than is needed for the expenses of the government, and piles up a huge surplus in the treasury.

We believe in free banking and a tariff for revenue only. Given these conditions, there would be no currency famine and there would be no surplus.

Our currency system is about as bad as it well could be, and various efforts have been made to patch it up, but it is like putting new cloth upon old garments. The whole system needs to be radically reformed, and the country will never be free from financial distress from time to time until this is done. So long as the present system is in force, so long as the money is being drawn out of the channels of trade and piled up in the treasury, some means must be devised of getting it out.

This has been going on year after year, and every now and then the Secretary of the Treasury has had to apply to Congress for a loan, or to resort to some such device to force the money out of the treasury back into circulation. There is at this time an enormous demand for money in the legitimate branches of trade and industry. Speculation has been very quiet for some time, and comparatively little money has been used in this way, but loans have been increasing, and the banks have had all that they could do to meet the demands.

In this crisis the sub-treasury is drawing day after day upon the banks and depleting the reserves by millions, when there is no need whatever of this money for government purposes. The Secretary of the Treasury would gladly leave the money in the banks or in the pockets of the people, but he is powerless to prevent it from coming in, and there is no way for him to turn it loose, except by depositing it in the banks. The Aldrich bill provided that this money could be deposited as fast as the surplus accumulated against securities other than United States bonds. Every provision was taken in the Aldrich bill to protect the government, and it was provided also that the government should receive a small rate of interest on funds thus deposited. Had the bill passed, government absorption would have caused no uneasiness in the business world and would have caused no distress for the Secretary could have put the money out as fast as it came in. As it is, the accumulation goes on, and it may be necessary by and by for the Secretary to take matters into his own hands, as he did several months ago, in order to prevent a money panic.

Senator Bailey took the sensible view. He is opposed to the whole Republican system, but he is in favor of any measure that promises relief, even though it be but a temporary expedient. We cannot see what is to be gained by withdrawing money from circulation and piling it up in the treasury. If the Republicans will take it away, we are quite willing

to add them in their efforts to give it back. It seems to us that the Democrats have made a mistake in defeating the bill.

FARM LABOR SCARCITY.

Farmers from various sections of the State are complaining of the scarcity of labor. This is due to the fact that many of the negro laborers have gone off to the mines or to the railroads or into service at the North, while others have rented or purchased little farms and are doing business on their own account. There are many negro farmers in Virginia, and our information is that nearly all of them are doing first-rate and are good citizens.

But the scarcity of labor is a problem which the farmers of Virginia must confront, and the solution is puzzling them no little. The negro problem in the black belt of Virginia seems to be not so much what the whites will do with the negro as what they will do without him. Virginians have been accustomed to negro labor, and it is altogether the most satisfactory labor, because they know how to deal with the negro laborers, who have been raised on the soil better than they know how to deal with foreigners.

But while the problem is perplexing, we are encouraged to believe that it will all work out for the best. Our information is that the most successful farmers, certainly throughout Southside Virginia, are those who do their own work, with the assistance of their boys, and that wherever you find an industrious farmer with two or three industrious boys, who will till their own soil, you will find prosperity.

Virginia is in need of more farmers of this character, and that is why this paper has so persistently urged the State to advise for conservation and sound doctrine on great modern questions.

It is fair to presume that the escape of the jolly train in the Newport News harbor will not result in the blowing up of the Maine No. 2 by the infuriated police force of that port.

The deadlock that was broken at Dover in time to get Delaware back into the Union before this Congress adjourns was the longest and most stubborn in the history of deadlocks.

President Roosevelt is invited to Chicago to "cheer up" six babies having been born in one house in that city last week.

A Mexican multi-millionaire has accumulated a cargo of Mr. Carnegie's horror of dying rich, and proposes to shake it off by paying a portion of his country's indebtedness.

The trouble with Vick, the colored postmaster at Wilson, N. C., who failed of reappointment, seems to have been that he was too popular with white folks of the Democratic stripe.

It is not now believed that President and Mayoralty Candidate Ingalls will need his private car for a trip up the Salt River road after the Cincinnati election.

The lamb has the advantage so far in March weather, but March is mighty young yet, and the lion is doubtless lying low for future business.

With coal coming down toward old prices, ice down to twenty cents a hundred pounds, and the springtime coming, "Gentle Annie," life is again worth living.

The thirteen-year-old boy who has been doing the Old Point and Norfolk hotels is making an early start for the penitentiary.

It is safe to predict that Congress will adjourn to-day without appropriating that \$7,000,000 that Secretary Cortright wants so much.

It is not necessary for Speaker Henderson to explain what he is mad about. Everybody who cares about it already knows.

The Norfolk Dispatch names A. C. Braxton for President in 1904, principally because he is the father of the Corporation Commission law.

To "Constant Reader": No, the Senate was not called in extra session just to hear the case of Apostate Smoot.

Let us hope that the bold burglars will leave a little of the good village of Chester for seed.

Speaker Henderson, like February, goes out after the manner of the roaring lion.

With a Comment or Two.

If the majority of the people want the new Constitution, it will not be necessary to proclaim it; if they do not want it, it will be proclaimed, even if such a course involves the most sacred pledges of the Democratic party.—Shenandoah Herald, February 27th.

What can be the matter with the esteemed Herald? Has it been asleep ever since "way yonder last year?"

No "references to allusions" were made.

The suggestion of Mr. Bowen that the Czar of Russia name the arctics wharves, sitting as a court of arbitration, in accordance with the principles of the Hague agreement, shall pass upon the preferential treatment issue, is an exceedingly happy compliment to the monarch who was the special promoter of the international peace congress.—Atlanta Constitution.

But, "they do say," the Czar is anything but proud of the peace congress he promoted.

A Buncombe county woman is suing George W. Vanderbilt because of the drowning of her husband in the French Broad River, alleging that the boat he was using while working for the millionaire was defective.—Charlotte Observer.

Vanderbilt will doubtless be willing to pay heavy damages if it can be shown that a descendant of the great Commodore has floated a defective boat.

making it warm with each other. Both the heroes have already been honored by having counties named for them, and General Nash has been further remembered by having a beautiful square in the city of Raleigh called by his name. The people in the capital city think Nash Square is the proper place for the Nash monument.

In a recent issue of the New Orleans Playhouse the following advertisement, brief and to the point, appeared:

"I am applying for a commutation of sentence, George Thompson."

"I am applying for a commutation of sentence, John Baptiste."

"I am applying for a pardon, Joe Bell."

The explanation is this: These men are convicts who are applying for pardon, and under a law that seems to be peculiar to Louisiana (we never heard of the like elsewhere), they must give notice in some paper of their intention so that any person or persons having cause to oppose or to favor the application may have an opportunity to be heard before the pardoning power takes action. This is, in our opinion, a good law that might serve a good purpose in Virginia as well as in Louisiana.

The sentiment in favor of woman's suffrage has gained sufficient headway in the State of New Hampshire as to make an election on the question of giving to women the right to vote necessary. The election will be held on the 10th of this month, when the men will vote on an amendment to the Constitution, which, if adopted, will give to the women of New Hampshire all the rights at the ballot box that the men now enjoy. We know of no better State than New Hampshire in which to practically test woman suffrage, and for our part we are inclined to wish the women success.

Little drops of water, mixed with lemon juice, With a "stick" and sugar, make the very deuce.

We are never anything if not previous. Therefore it is that about this time of year we start out on a hunt for a ballroom, with windows all around, and a bath-tub in the other corner, and plenty of shade all around the house, and far away from all street car lines.

We always look for a place every summer, and we never find one.

As a result, we have to keep cool by sleeping out on the woodshed.

But we are still looking for such a place, and we would be glad if some of our friends would put us next.

Now, doth the busy bee improve each shining hour and minute? We don't believe a word of it. We think there's nothing in it.

Did Jack and Gill go up a hill, Or did they chase the duck? Water would not wash them down, 'Twas not a case of luck.

If Mr. Harry Glenn were not such a popular fellow he would be able to get there in time for his dinner.

But we know a fellow who was in the pangs of starvation, and who invited Mr. Glenn to go with him to breakfast.

They started down Main Street from Ninth to Kirkwood's, and it took three hours and twenty minutes to get there, and then dinner was over and they were preparing for supper.

Now if Mr. Glenn had not been so popular and he had not been stopped so much on the way and asked for his opinion on the King case, he would not have missed his breakfast.

HARRY TURNER.

The Fredericksburg Free Lance says: "Congressman Hay, of Virginia, in addition to having been chosen to preside over the Democratic caucus, has been very prominent on the floor of the House during the session about to close. Mr. Hay is in a fair way to become the leader of his party in the near future."

Speaking of and condemning the unsettling of Mr. Butler, of Missouri, in the last House of the present Congress, the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot says:

"It is not the unsettling of a Congressman with six thousand majority to his credit, that we regard as a flagrant enough outrage that makes this case so much a matter of concern to every citizen of the country. It was the absolutely despotic and revolutionary methods by which the unsettling was accomplished that we regard as the precedent established that should excite the public indignation and alarm. Indeed, there is no other legislative body outside of the United States in which the course of the chair and the majority in this case would not have precipitated a riot in the chamber."

The Petersburg Index-Appeal says: "Let us all take off our hats in honor of the chief of police of Staunton, and the courage to enforce the laws of Virginia against cruelty to animals, and to make a brutal dog owner understand the meaning of a no-horse and carry the animal to a nearby stable to be fed and rested until it could gain strength enough to do its work. The example is worthy of emulation all over the State and everywhere."

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The Charlotte Observer takes pleasure in recording the following facts:

"The Raleigh Times observes that no legislator has yet introduced the usual amendment to the revenue bill to impose a tax on hacholores. This suggests another fact, and that a most gratifying one, that this Legislature is free from a funny man. This character has made the memory of former legislatures a nightmare. If he does not develop in this town to-day and that's why, who knows? The last prize it has secured is the college to be established in this State by the Protestant Methodist Church."

Of the Watts liquor law the Greenville Reflector, a staunch temperance paper, says:

"Another good feature of this law is that any town upon giving prescribed notice can hold an election for prohibition or dispensary and rid itself of saloons and distilleries. The law can only serve its best purpose by having the support of all temperance advocates. In the absence of a stronger law, we think the Watts bill is enforced."

The Man ABOUT TOWN

DAILY DIARY, MARCH 4.
4:30 P. M.—Aunt's breakfast.
7:42 A. M.—Don't know when we'll get Monday morning's supper.

Moral—Don't cross a bridge until you get to it.

They say the curfew bells were tolled. We have our doubts about it. There were no lights in those old days. They went to bed without it.

If we didn't have six hungry youngsters after us for breakfast and supper, we'd join the cemetery committee of Manchester and go out at every meeting, just to look into those brown eyes and bask in the sweetness of that voice.

We'd go out to the graveyard every afternoon for a walk, and we'd haunt the shadows of the house, for our heart is so susceptible to the charms of eyes and voice that we can't help expressing our admiration.

And we have more than a mind to go over to Manchester and run for the cemetery committee anyway.

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An Hour With Virginia Editors

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"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG. Copyright by Philip Little.

CHAPTER X.

"Why, Dr. Jamelson, how fortunate, I want to ask about the young man or boy, whichever he was, who was just brought in here injured by being thrown out of a dogcart."

"I am glad to have been the one to have been called, Miss Van Nostrand. We suppose that he has concussion of the brain, and we know that he has one leg and one arm broken."

"Oh, I am so sorry. I sent my groom into the florist's and the horse, frightened at some noise or passing vehicle, started and ran before I realized what was happening. Somewhere and somehow, this young fellow climbed into the dogcart, lifted me off the seat, they say, and dropped me over the back. I have not heard any more than that, as I came up to the finish just as they had taken him away, and I followed here as soon as I could."

"He is quite young, somewhere between fifteen and seventeen, I should say, and he looks strong and healthy, so unless he has some internal injuries, I should say that he would come out all right in time."

"You do think so? Oh, I am so glad to hear you say that."

"Yes, indeed, boys often break arms and legs and ribs and never know of it after they are healed. I shall know better about it in a moment."

"Can I come to see him later?"

"Yes, indeed, Miss Van Nostrand, you can see him as often as you like within certain hours. Your father, perhaps, you do not know, is one of the trustees of the hospital, and he and his family have certain privileges."

"Thank you, then I will be here tomorrow. Good afternoon."

CHAPTER XI.

"It is now two days since he went out to walk," said Shorty, as he turned from one of the windows.

"What could he want to skip 'or'?" asked London, "you haven't been leaving him, have you, Reddie?"

"Beating him? I guess not. I wouldn't harm him for anything. No, sir, something has happened to him. I am sure. Perhaps he has been kidnapped for a ransom!" suggested the Englishman.

"What do you mean by that?" asked Reddie, rising from his seat, his face working.

"Nothing, man. What is the matter with you? Is a fellow make a suggestion without your throwing a fit?"

"But you said kidnapped."

"Well, if I did?"

"What did you mean? What—?" He suddenly stopped, checked himself, and Reddie, actually turning pale, was being satisfied.

"O, well, I love the boy, see?"

"Say, boys, Reddie is getting romantic; he says that he loves Bobs." London threw back his head and laughed.

"Not that I love Bobs less, but I love Reddie more. Reddie, you make me wonder. 'Pon honor, you do.'"

"None of your chaff, London. I ain't of much account. I know, but that boy was everything to me. He was a clever chap, an' I don't believe he run away."

"What could he have done? No one would steal him for his money or clothes?"

"Don't care, he never run away."

"Do you think he's dead?"